

KAVITA SHAH  
VISIONS



naïve



Music and culture, for me, are intrinsically linked by language. After all, words are ultimately the sum of their parts: a collection of sounds. Their nuances evoke within us certain associations, emotions, and memories that shape our stories as humans.

The diverse musical, cultural, and linguistic influences present in “Visions” are the result of the distinct people, places, and soundscapes that have shaped my life -- from New York to Mumbai to Salvador da Bahia to my own imagined community.

As to the specific traditions referenced in the music—namely jazz, MPB (música popular brasileira), Mandé music, and Hindustani classical—my intention is neither to subvert their integrity through mere imitation nor to appropriate them into a “melting pot” of my own design.

Rather, as a composer, arranger, and improviser, I am curious to see what happens when seemingly disparate elements come together, on their own terms, in dialogue. A dialogue outside the restraints of our mortal perceptions of time and space. A dialogue in which those parts of us that are not physically present may come to life in an eternal encounter.

You, the listener, are very much a part of this dialogue. I hope that “Visions” transports you to simultaneously recognizable and unknown places, and perhaps even allows you to look at what was once familiar through a different lens.

**New York, March 2014**

*Pour moi, la musique et la culture sont liées intrinsèquement au langage. Les mots sont, après réflexion, le résultat de leurs composants : une série de sons. Leurs nuances éveillent en nous certaines associations d'idées, certaines émotions et certains souvenirs qui profilent nos histoires en tant qu'êtres humains.*

*Les nombreuses influences qu'on trouve dans “Visions”, sur le plan musical, culturel ou linguistique résultent des différentes expériences qui ont façonné ma vie : des peuples, des lieux, des environnements sonores différents— de New York à Bombay, de Salvador da Bahia à ma propre communauté fictive.*

*Il existe différentes traditions, particulières et référencées musicalement ; citons le jazz, la MPB (música popular brasileira), la musique mandée, la musique classique du nord de l'Inde. Mon intention n'est ni d'altérer leur intégrité par de simples imitation, ni de les assembler en un “melting pot” de ma propre composition.*

*Ma démarche est davantage d'observer avec curiosité en tant que compositeur, coordinatrice et improvisatrice, ce qui se produit lorsque des éléments visiblement hétéroclites s'assemblent en se préservant, en un dialogue. Un dialogue hors des limites de notre perception mortelle du temps et de l'espace. Un dialogue dans lequel ces éléments invisibles qui nous composent peuvent prendre vie en une rencontre éternelle.*

*Vous, auditeur, faites partie intégrante de ce dialogue. J'espère que “Visions” vous transportera vers des lieux qui vous sont à la fois familiers et inconnus, et peut-être même qu'il vous poussera à regarder ce qui vous paraissait familier sous un nouvel angle.*

**New York, Mars 2014**

TRADUCTION : Alexandre Schuster

*Kavita S. Shah*

## 1. SODADE

Quem mostra' bô ess caminho longe?  
Quem mostra' bô ess caminho longe?  
Ess caminho pa São Tomé

Sodade  
Dess nha terra São Nicolau

Si bô 'screvê' me 'm ta 'screvê' be  
Si bô 'squecê me 'm ta 'squecê be  
Até dia qui bô volta

Sodade  
Dess nha terra São Nicolau

\*SODADE IS A WORD OF PORTUGUESE ORIGIN (SAUDADE) THAT CANNOT BE TRANSLATED INTO ANY OTHER LANGUAGE.  
IT DESCRIBES A FEELING OF LONGING AND NOSTALGIA.

MUSIC BY AMANDIO CABRAL & LUIS MORAIS, LYRICS BY AMANDIO CABRAL, ARRANGED BY KAVITA SHAH.  
© 1993, AFRICA NOSTRA (CATALOGUE LUSAFRICA) / EDITIONS DE BERTHOLENE / SONY MUSIC ENTERTAINMENT FRANCE (SACEM).

## 2. VISIONS

People hand in hand  
Have I lived to see the milk and honey land?  
Where hate's a dream and love forever stands  
Or is this a vision in my mind?

The law was never passed  
But somehow all men feel they're truly free  
at last  
Have we really gone this far through space  
and time  
Or is this a vision in my mind?  
I'm not one who makes believe

MUSIC & LYRICS BY STEVIE WONDER, ARRANGED BY KAVITA SHAH.  
© 1973, BLACK BULL MUSIC, INC. / JOBETE MUSIC CO., INC. (ASCAP).

Who showed you this long road?  
Who showed you this long road?  
This road to São Tomé

Sodade\*  
For my homeland São Nicolau

If you write me, I will write you  
If you forget me, I will forget you  
Until the day you return

Sodade  
For my homeland São Nicolau

I know that leaves are green  
They only change to brown  
When autumn comes around  
I know just what I say  
Today's not yesterday  
And all things have an ending

But what I'd like to know  
Is could a place like this exist so beautiful  
Or do we have to find our wings and fly away  
To the vision in our mind?

## 3. LITTLE GREEN

Born with the moon in Cancer  
Choose her a name she will answer to  
Call her green and the winters cannot fade her  
Call her green for the children who've made her  
Little green, be a gypsy dancer

He went to California  
Hearing that everything's warmer there  
So you write him a letter and say,  
"Her eyes are blue"  
He sends you a poem and she's lost to you  
Little green, he's a non-conformer

Just a little green  
Like the color when the Spring is born  
There'll be crocuses to bring to school tomorrow  
Just a little green  
Like the nights when the Northern Lights perform  
There'll be icicles and birthday clothes  
And sometimes there'll be sorrow

Child with a child pretending  
Weary of lies you are sending home  
So you sign all the papers in the family name  
You're sad and you're sorry, but you're not  
ashamed  
Little green, have a happy ending

MUSIC & LYRICS BY JONI MITCHELL, ARRANGED BY KAVITA SHAH.  
© 1967, CRAZY CROW MUSIC (ASCAP).

## 4. TABLA INTERLUDE

## 5. PAPER PLANES

I fly like paper, get high like planes  
If you catch me on the border I got visas in  
my name  
If you come around here I make 'em all day  
I get one done in a second if you wait

Sometimes I think sitting on trains  
Every stop I get to I'm clocking that game  
Everyone's a winner, we're making our fame  
Bona fide hustler making my name

All I wanna do is...  
And...  
And take your money

Some some some I some I murder  
Some I some I let go...

MUSIC & LYRICS BY THOMAS WESLEY PENTZ, JOE STRUMMER, PAUL  
SIMONON, MICK JONES, TOPPER HEADON & MATHANGI  
ARULPRAGASAM (M.I.A.), ARRANGED BY KAVITA SHAH. © 2007, SONGS  
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UNIVERSAL POLYGRAM INTERNATIONAL (ASCAP) / IMAGEM SONGS LTD.  
(SGAE) / NINEDEN LTD. (PRS)

## 6. TRISTE

Triste é viver na solidão  
Na dor cruel de uma paixão  
Triste é saber  
que ninguém pode viver de ilusão  
Que nunca vai ser, nunca vai dar  
O sonhador tem que acordar

Tua beleza é um avião  
Demais pra um pobre coração  
Que pára pra te ver passar  
Só pra me abandonar  
Triste é viver na solidão

MUSIC & LYRICS BY ANTÔNIO CARLOS JOBIM, ARRANGED BY KAVITA SHAH. © 1967, CORCOVADO MUSIC CORPORATION (BMI).

## 7. MORAY

¿Dónde están los indios del valle?  
¿Dónde están los indios del mar?  
¿Dónde están y a dónde se han ido?  
¿Dónde están y dónde estarán?

*Where are the Indians\* of the valley?  
Where are the Indians of the sea?  
Where are they and where have they gone?  
Where are they and where could they be?*

\*THE WORD INDIO IN SPANISH CONNOTES INDIGENOUS PEOPLE AND IS NOT CONSIDERED PEJORATIVE.

MUSIC & LYRICS BY KAVITA SHAH. © 2013, KAVITA SHAH MUSIC (ASCAP).

## 8. DELUGE

A car, a plane, a call from 'cross the ocean  
A loss, a gain, goodbye to one's devotion  
A deluge, comin' over and over my head now  
A deluge, comin' over and over my head now

The one and only place to go is home now  
You'll never know just how the tables turn, now  
A deluge, comin' over and over my head now  
A deluge, comin' over and over my head now

MUSIC BY WAYNE SHORTER & LYRICS BY KAVITA SHAH, ARRANGED BY STEPHEN NEWCOMB & KAVITA SHAH.  
MUSIC © 1964 MIYAKO MUSIC (BMI) / LYRICS © 2014, KAVITA SHAH MUSIC (ASCAP).

## 9. OJU OBA

É bonito lhe ver  
É tanto prazer que seu canto me dá  
Vou seguir sua luz  
Sua força conduz  
Afoxê Oju Oba\*

*It's beautiful to see you  
Your song gives me so much pleasure  
I will follow your light  
Your strength will lead me  
Afoxê Oju Oba\**

Afoxê Oju Oba,  
Salvador vai ascender  
Sua estrela vai brilhar  
Meu olhar resplandecer  
Reluzente Oju Oba  
Ilumine meu viver

*Afoxê Oju Oba,  
Salvador will rise up  
Your star will light up  
My gaze will be ablaze  
Resplendent Oju Oba  
Illuminate my life*

Chegou  
Xangô Aganju° Obá chegou  
Foi povo de Zambi quem chamou:  
Eu quero ir com você

*He has arrived  
Xangô Aganju° the King has arrived  
It was Zambi's people who called out:  
I want to go with you*

\*OJU OBA MEANS "THE EYES OF THE RULER" IN YORÚBÁ.

°XANGÔ IS AN ORIXÁ (DIVINITY) IN THE AFRO-BRAZILIAN RELIGION CANDOMBLÉ, AND AGANJU IS ONE OF HIS SEVERAL AVATARS. ZAMBI, A WORD OF THE BANTU FAMILY, IS UNDERSTOOD TO MEAN "GOD" IN CANDOMBLÉ.

MUSIC BY EDIL PACHECO & LYRICS BY PAULO CÉSAR PINHEIRO, ARRANGED BY LIONEL LOUJEK & KAVITA SHAH. © 1988, NOWA PRODUÇÕES ARTÍSTICAS C/O WB MUSIC CORP. (ASCAP) / SCREEN GEMS-EMI MUSIC LTD. (PRS).



## 10. MY TIME IS WHEN

Aurora breaks, I waken  
My dreams forsaken  
In foreign worlds I linger,  
lost in surrender

Footsteps and footsteps lead me in circles  
Voices and voices thrum without purpose  
Faster and faster, consciousness fading  
Spirits surround me,

MUSIC & LYRICS BY KAVITA SHAH. © 2013, KAVITA SHAH MUSIC (ASCAP).

Destiny waiting.

Out of the past,  
will mem'ries last?  
Only a while?

When the day is through,  
I will sing to you a Spring song:  
our Future is unborn

## 11. RAG DESH: ALAAP

ARRANGED BY KAVITA SHAH.

## 12. RAG DESH: TEENTAAL GAT

MUSIC BY SAMIR CHATTERJEE, ARRANGED BY KAVITA SHAH. © 2014, CHHANDAYAN PUBLISHING.

## 13. RAG DESH: MELTDOWN

MUSIC BY KAVITA SHAH, INSPIRED BY "RAG DESH: TEENTAAL GAT" BY SAMIR CHATTERJEE,  
WITH PERMISSION FROM THE AUTHOR. © 2013, KAVITA SHAH MUSIC (ASCAP).

## 14. SODADE POSTLUDE

SEE TRACK 1

## 15. WHEN... (BONUS TRACK)

SEE TRACK 10

“Visions,” co-produced by Lionel Loueke & Kavita Shah.

All arrangements by Kavita Shah, except “Deluge,” by Steve Newcomb & Kavita Shah, and “Oju Oba,” by Lionel Loueke & Kavita Shah.

**Kavita Shah** – voice

**Lionel Loueke** – guitar, voice, percussion (tracks 1, 9, 14)

**Steve Wilson** – soprano sax (track 5), alto flute (track 6), alto sax (track 8)

**Yacouba Sissoko** – kora

**Stephen Cellucci** – tabla

**Steve Newcomb** – rhodes (track 6) & piano

**Michael Valeanu** – guitar

**Linda Oh** – bass

**Guilhem Flouzat** – drums

**Rogério Boccato** – percussion (tracks 1, 3, 9, 14)

Tracks 1 & 11-13:

**Miho Hazama** – conductor

**Curtis Stewart** – violin

**Tomoko Omura** – violin

**Nick Revel** – viola

**Will Martina** – cello

Recording Engineers: **Jeremy Loucas & Kevin Harper**

Mixing Engineer: **Jeremy Loucas**

Mastering Engineer: **Mark Wilder**

Photography: **Julien Charpentier**

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I love you all!





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